



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 October 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- vnunet.com reports new research has claimed that banking and paying bills over the internet could help to prevent one million cases of identity theft annually and reduce fraud by \$4.8 billion. (See item [4](#))
- Financial Times reports federal regulators arrested a 19-year-old, in the first case involving a combination of securities fraud, computer hacking, and identity theft. (See item [5](#))
- The Walker County Messenger reports an emergency drill in Lafayette, GA, uncovered potential problems cell phone users might experience along state and county lines. (See item [18](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *October 09, Daily Journal (MO)* — **Electricity outages planned in Bismarck for upgraded equipment.** The power outages are being scheduled in Bismarck, MO, by electricity provider, AmerenUE, as part of an improvement program. AmerenUE is advising Bismarck residents that it will be necessary to interrupt electricity for several hours Saturday, October 11, to complete a major upgrade of the city's electricity system. The electricity will be shut off in the eastern part of Bismarck from about 9 a.m. until noon and then in the western part of the community from

about noon to 3 p.m. In case of adverse weather conditions, the project will be rescheduled.

According to an announcement by the company, the power outages are necessary to bring a new substation into service and convert the city's electricity supply from 2,400 volts to 7,200 volts. These improvements are designed to enhance reliability and provide capacity for new growth. Company officials have notified local officials of the planned power outages and the company will use an automated calling system to notify residents by telephone.

Source: <http://www.mydjconnection.com/articles/2003/10/09/community/news2.txt>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

2. *October 09, Christian Science Monitor* — **New Army 'Stryker' combat vehicle nears Iraq test. For more than a year, Army officers have been learning how to leverage the unprecedented concentration of infantrymen, firepower, speed, and information combined in the Army's first 3,600-strong Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Their goal: to push the envelope on ground warfare.** Soon, this new medium-armored force will face a trial by fire – a year-long deployment in the restive towns and hinterlands of Iraq. The brigade begins rolling out this week, with 1,000 vehicles now ready for loading onto Kuwait-bound ships at Tacoma, WA. **"The brigade is designed to operate over extended distances and in urban areas. It can move tactically very rapidly,"** says Brigadier General John Gardner, who is overseeing the development at Fort Lewis of the first two of six planned Stryker brigades. **Still, rarely has a major armored combat system gone from the production line into a war zone so quickly.** The first of the 19-ton, eight-wheeled Stryker vehicles arrived at Fort Lewis, WA, just 16 months ago in June 2002. On September 17, the Pentagon sent a formal operational evaluation of the system to Congress, starting the clock on a 30-day waiting period before first Stryker brigade can deploy overseas.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1009/p02s02-usmi.html>

3. *October 08, Federal Computer Week* — **Generals praise, fret over bandwidth.** Battlefield commanders recently returned from the deserts of Iraq have conflicting opinions about the distribution of some technology used to topple the regime. Although all agree that new technologies helped speed up the end of combat operations, the availability of bandwidth — long decried as one of the military's top challenges — was not acceptable for all commanders. The amount of data flowing to Air Force commanders in Iraq was unsurpassed in the history of warfare, said General T. Michael Moseley, Air Force vice chief of staff. However, Marine Major General James Amos, commanding general of the Third Marine aircraft wing, said bandwidth was a problem for him throughout the operation. "We definitely had challenges with bandwidth," Amos said. "We had minimal bandwidth and everybody wanted it." **Military officials expected bandwidth to be something the Defense Department would have an abundant supply of, with everyone on the battlefield connected to a certain degree. But**

the speed with which the forces moved and the inability to string fiber nationwide hampered efforts.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1006/web-band-10-08-03.asp>

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *October 09, vnunet.com* — **Online banking cuts fraud and ID theft.** Banking and paying bills over the internet could help to prevent one million cases of identity theft annually and reduce fraud by \$4.8 billion, new research has claimed. A report from market research firm Javelin Strategy & Research challenges popular assumptions that internet transactions are less safe than paper-based ones. **The company argued that using the internet can protect consumers and businesses from two common types of identity theft: fraudulent opening of new accounts, and unauthorized use of existing accounts.** In addition, Javelin said that consumers who view and pay their bills online are nearly four times more likely to monitor their transactions on a regular basis than those who wait for paper bills and monthly statements.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/News/1144202>

5. *October 09, Financial Times* — **U.S. teen charged with securities fraud. Federal regulators scored another first for the electronic age on Thursday, October 9, arresting a 19-year-old, living with his parents in Pennsylvania, in the first case involving a combination of securities fraud, computer hacking and identity theft.** Officials say Van Dinh limited his own internet trading losses by tricking another home trader into downloading software, which Dinh then used to steal log-in and password information for an online brokerage account. Dinh, enforcement officials say, then signed in to the brokerage, buying up most of his own loss-threatening trading positions and saving \$37,000. He was arrested and charged with fraud by the U.S. Attorney's office in Massachusetts, part of the Department of Justice.

Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1059480469585&p=1012571727088>

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Transportation Sector

6. *October 09, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA signs new contract for the safe disposal of abandoned property.** Adm. James M. Loy, Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), today announced that TSA has awarded the first nationwide contract to manage the disposal of abandoned property and hazardous materials. This contract will enable TSA to dispose of voluntarily abandoned property intercepted at the airport checkpoints in a timely and efficient manner. In addition, this contract will allow for the collection and disposal of all hazardous materials left at the checkpoints in an environmentally responsible and safe manner. Millions of voluntarily abandoned items are left at airport checkpoints over the course of a year. How these items are disposed of varies from airport to airport. At some airports, voluntarily abandoned items are

turned over to the airport lost and found department and then disposed of after a certain period of time. **In the course of screening passengers at a checkpoint, screeners can also intercept prohibited hazardous materials such as fireworks, fuels, paints, butane fuel, and self-defense sprays. This contract is also designed to dispose of hazardous materials collected at the checkpoints in an environmentally compliant manner.**

Source: <http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=725>

7. *October 09, Associated Press* — **Airport baggage screeners got answers to job test. An investigation has discovered that government airport screeners were given most of the answers to the tests they took to qualify for the job.** According to an internal Homeland Security Department probe, applicants were not even required to show they could identify dangerous objects inside luggage. Clark Kent Ervin, the department's acting inspector general, calls it a "critical defect" in the written tests. And he says it's "extremely disturbing." **A Transportation Security Administration spokesman says the agency has already reviewed and improved its training and may make further improvements.**

Source: <http://www.wivb.com/Global/story.asp?S=1475854&nav=0RapIRT7>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

8. *October 09, Gannett News Service* — **FedEx duels UPS on the road.** FedEx may be known for its ability to fly packages across the country overnight, but trucks may be the company's future. **The shipping conglomerate increasingly is turning to its FedEx Ground subsidiary to continue the battle against United Parcel Service for the country's shipping market, and it is beginning to turn the tide, thanks in part to its aggressive expansion plans.** Those plans now include a new \$65 million hub expected to open in 2005 in northern Kentucky just south of Cincinnati. It could eventually employ as many as 2,400 workers. "We hope to pretty much double our capacity of our network by 2009 ... and the Boone County location and deal was just best for us," said FedEx Ground President and CEO Daniel J. Sullivan. The core of FedEx Ground, which focuses on shipping small packages around the country in just a few days or even overnight by truck, was created in the mid-1980s under a different name — RPS. **That company, then a subsidiary of the Akron-based trucking company Roadway Express Inc., used a fresh concept. It hired independent, contracted drivers and employed an innovative bar-code technology at its sorting hubs.** FedEx bought the company in 1998, but it continued to operate as RPS until 2000, when the name was changed to FedEx Ground.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/2003/business/0310/09/c03-292937.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

9. *October 09, USAgNet* — **Japan quarantines cattle linked to latest BSE case. Japanese authorities quarantined 605 cows that had been raised with a 23-month-old bull that died last month of what may be a new strain of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE),** according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. The Holstein bull was Japan's

eighth confirmed case of BSE. It was born in October 2001, the same month Japan banned meat and bone meal used to feed cattle, which is generally regarded as the main route of infection. A panel of ministry experts declared the bull sick cattle. Under the Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control Law, cattle bred with the bull must be taken out of circulation. As a first step, farm owners in Fukushima and Tochigi Prefectures, north of Tokyo, were told not to move 605 of their cows. **Agriculture Ministry officials said they had yet to decide whether to destroy the animals.**

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=1092&yr=2003>

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Food Sector

10. *October 09, U.S. Health and Human Services* — **HHS issues new rules to enhance security of the U.S. food supply.** U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced Thursday, October 9, the issuance of two Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations that will enable better efforts to monitor and inspect imported foods, and will allow quick identification and notification of food processors and other establishments involved in any deliberate or accidental contamination of food. **Effective December 12, the regulations will implement key provisions of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, which provided the FDA with new authority to protect the nation's food supply against actual or threatened terrorist acts and other food-related emergencies.** The first regulation requires food importers to provide the FDA with advance notice of human and animal food shipments and their contents imported or offered for import. The second regulation requires domestic and foreign food facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States to register with the agency. **The requirements will enable the FDA to quickly identify and locate affected food processors and other establishments in the event of deliberate or accidental contamination of food.**

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2003pres/20031009.html>

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Water Sector

11. *October 09, Daily News Transcript (Waltham, MA)* — **Winter road de-icer may have seeped into Massachusetts drinking water.** Road salt laid down in the winter has made its way into your drinking water, according to a study by the water company. **A five-year study of sodium chloride levels in some Dedham-Westwood (MA) Water District wells found seasonal spikes, supporting the theory that salt used to de-ice Rte. 128 runs off the road and eventually out of local faucets. While the levels pose no health hazard, water officials worry customers may taste the difference someday soon.** "The fact that salt levels are growing and have been for years concerns us," said District Director Nan Crossland. "Before long we're going to reach the taste issue." The study linked the salt to the highway by comparing levels in wells closest to Rte. 128 — Well 5 is just 400 feet from the road — with wells farther away. Tests showed wells closer to the highway had higher salt concentrations

than those with runoff from town roads. **But the water district has not gotten any formal response from the state Highway Department since submitting the study this summer. Crossland said two MassHighway representatives met with local officials, but the pair had not yet read the study.**

Source: http://www.neponsetvalleydailynews.com/news/local_regional/dedh_water10082003.htm

12. *October 09, Daily Herald (Chicago)* — **Taking radium out of water. Four Libertyville Township (IL) neighborhoods with potentially dangerous amounts of radium in their drinking water may get water from Lake Michigan instead of local wells.** A different solution also being considered calls for construction of a new well for the roughly 500 homes in the Countryside Manor, North Libertyville Estates, Terre Fair and Ashford Trail neighborhoods. That measure would be less expensive, but wouldn't necessarily provide water of the same high quality as from the great lake, officials said. "From a long-term water quality standpoint, clearly Lake Michigan is the strongest option," said Lake County Public Works Superintendent Al Galantha. The county board's public works and transportation committee discussed the dilemma and possible solutions Wednesday. The board has until December to craft a plan, according to state regulations. **County officials learned in May that the neighborhoods' water supply contained unacceptably high levels of radium. The area's water comes from three county-owned wells.**

Source: http://www.dailyherald.com/mchenry/main_story.asp?intID=37903164

13. *October 09, Associated Press* — **Eleven cities' water allocations reduced. Eleven Texas cities that depend on shrinking Lake Meredith for their water are having their allotments cut by millions of gallons, but most say they will still have enough to meet their demands.** "Yes, there is a serious problem in Lake Meredith right now," water authority General Manager Kent Satterwhite said in a story in Thursday's Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "We asked the cities how a five or 10 percent reduction would affect them, and most said they could make up the difference if it were five percent." **Ches Carthel, an engineer for Lubbock water utilities, said Lubbock typically uses only 90 percent to 95 percent of its annual allocation.** Lake Meredith is at its lowest level in recorded history at 40 feet below normal storage capacity. Some officials speculate it may be unusable by 2006. **The water authority manages the lake north of Amarillo. The lake supplies water to Lubbock, Amarillo, Plainview, Borger, Pampa, Levelland, Slaton, Brownfield, Tahoka, O'Donnell and Lamesa.**

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/state/6966653.htm>

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Public Health Sector

14. *October 08, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy* — **National stockpile of SARS safety gear proposed.** Preparations for the possible return of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) should include establishment of a national stockpile of equipment to protect healthcare workers from the disease, a Minnesota official said at a Senate field hearing on Thursday, October 8. "We recommend that the federal government create a national supply of the personal protective equipment and other supplies required for isolating large numbers of people—including items like masks, gowns, and gloves—separate from the Strategic National

Stockpile of medical supplies," said Minnesota Health Commissioner Dianne Mandernach. **If hospitals run out of protective equipment, healthcare workers might refuse to come to work, endangering the care of SARS patients and others, Mandernach said.** Mandernach and other speakers worried about the lack of hospital "surge capacity" for dealing with SARS patients, especially the shortage of negative-pressure rooms for isolating patients to prevent SARS transmission.

Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/hot/sars/news/oct08_03sars.html

15. *October 07, Reuters* — **SARS not seen in babies of infected mothers. The first five infants born to mothers with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) have no evidence of the disease themselves, according to a report from Hong Kong. However, two of the infants did develop digestive complications, which should be looked for in future newborns of mothers infected with the SARS virus.** In the latest issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, Tai F. Fok from the Prince of Wales Hospital in Shatin, Hong Kong, and others describe five infants born to women who became infected with the SARS virus during an outbreak at the Amoy Gardens housing complex in Hong Kong. The SARS virus probably did not cause the intestinal problems, the team notes. Rather, they believe, the combination of low oxygen levels in the mothers' circulation and the use of potent drugs were probably to blame. Fok and colleagues advise that abdominal symptoms should be carefully monitored in newborns of SARS patients, in case they have a serious intestinal complication.

Source: <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=3573541§ion=news>

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Government Sector

16. *October 09, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* — **Ridge says every American should be involved in security effort. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge arrived in St. Louis, MO, on Wednesday in part to gauge the community's willingness to trade privacy rights for national security.** Ridge spoke at a town-hall-style meeting at St. Louis University to an audience of students, university officials and others invited by the event's organizers, including many with ties to local homeland security efforts. The audience split over the issue of national identification cards. Ridge noted that the legislation that created his department barred their use. Ridge and a panel that included local and state officials talked about measures taken by their agencies, answered questions and posed a few of their own. **Ridge encouraged those in the audience to become familiar with state and local emergency plans and to develop a family emergency plan.** He said the government Web site, www.ready.com, had guidelines for such a plan.

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/News/96C89745E87F169186256DBA00139974?OpenDocument&Headline=In+visit+here,+Ridge+says+every+American+should+be+involved+in+security+effort++>

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Emergency Services Sector

17. *October 09, Congress Daily* — **House Homeland Chair seeks to overhaul first responder funding.** House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Christopher Cox, R-CA, has unveiled the first part of a comprehensive, homeland security reform proposal. **The first piece of his four-part plan focuses on emergency responder funding. Other proposals in the works and planned for later release will address homeland security intelligence reform, smaller-scale changes to Homeland Security Department activities and technical corrections. This bill is the first major legislation developed by the committee, established at the beginning of this year to rationalize homeland security policy on Capitol Hill.** Cox's bill represents an effort to draw the lines around the jurisdiction of the new committee at a time when other members are questioning whether it will become permanent next year. **The emergency response piece, called the "Faster and Smarter Funding For First Responders Act," would establish a new grant system for homeland security activities.** That money would be dispersed based solely on the terrorist threat level faced by the locality.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1003/100903cdam2.htm>

18. *October 09, Walker County Messenger (Lafayette, GA)* — **Mock emergency points to problem using cell phones. An emergency drill Tuesday at Rossville Middle School in Lafayette, GA, uncovered potential problems cell phone users might experience along state and county lines.** Rossville Middle School secretary Barbara Moore said she evacuated the building with everyone else, carrying her Cingular Wireless cell phone. She attempted to use that phone to dial Emergency 911 and initiate the drill, which simulated an explosion in the school's auditorium. **"If the (cell) towers on the Tennessee side pick up, then the call will go to Hamilton County," Walker County coordinator David Ashburn said. Walker County coordinator David Ashburn said the same problem could arise on all the county's borders and advised Walker residents using cell phones to dial the direct line, which is (706) 375-7810, instead of dialing 911. Improper routing of the phone call lengthened the actual response time to the staged emergency, Rossville Fire Chief Bill Eaves said.** He said after the Rossville station actually received the call, they arrived at the scene within four minutes. Only about 20 students knew the drill was happening Tuesday, and they sported staged injuries that emergency personnel had to treat, Rossville Fire Lt. Shaughn Curran said. Mineral-based smoke that is safe to breathe flooded the halls to add authenticity to the scenario.
Source: http://news.mywebpal.com/news_tool_v2.cfm?show=localnews&pnpID=730&NewsID=496608&CategoryID=3511&on=0

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

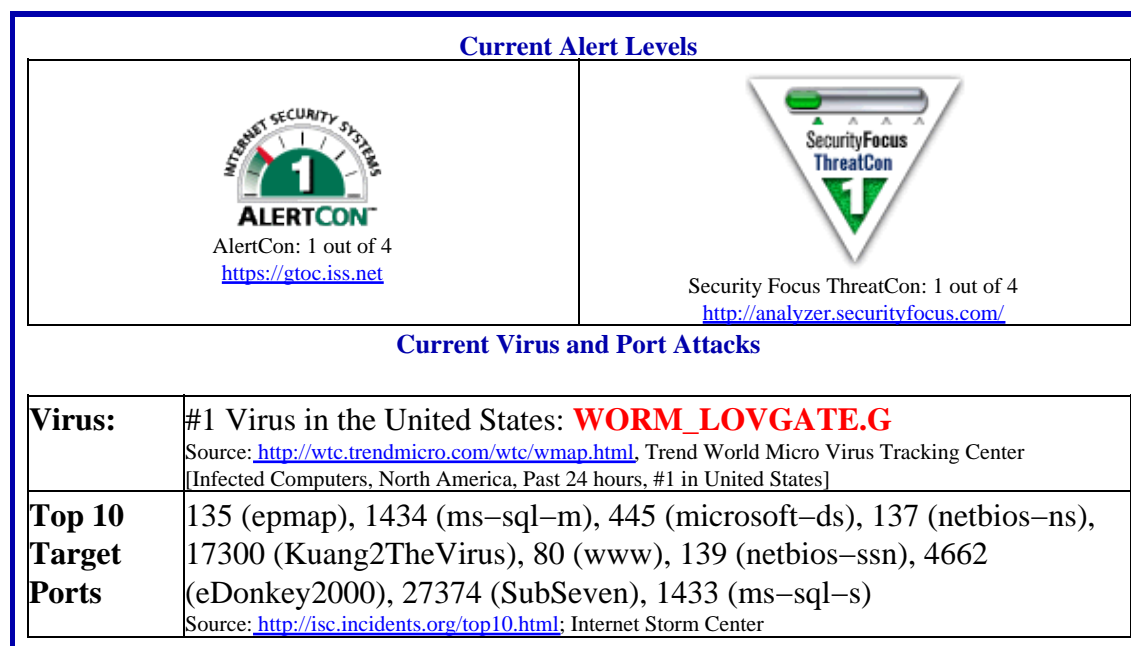
19. *October 08, Government Computer News* — **DHS, allies seek to close the top 20 software holes.** Sallie McDonald, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) director of outreach for infrastructure protection, joined Steve Cummings, director of the UK National Infrastructure Security Coordination Centre and the Canadian Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness Wednesday, October 8, to promote universal closing of the top 20 software vulnerabilities on the SANS Institute's annual list. Allan Paller, research director of SANS, said **there has been about 50 percent turnover in the top 20 list since last year. One reason half the list remained the same, he said, is that "less than 50 percent of sites**

actually patch their known vulnerabilities." Paller recommended requiring vendors to keep systems free of those vulnerabilities. The list is available on the SANS Institute Website:

<http://isc.sans.org/top20.html>

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23811-1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

20. *October 09, New York Times* — Car bombing and two other attacks in Iraq leave at least eleven dead. A car bomber plowed into a crowd of Iraqi policemen Thursday, October 9, killing himself and at least eight other people. The bomb, which blasted a crater four feet deep outside a police station, wounded more than 40 people. Also Thursday morning, **José Antonio Bernal Gómez, a Spanish intelligence officer was shot to death in front of his home in Baghdad, and a Fourth Infantry Division soldier died from wounds received during a rocket-propelled grenade attack on a convoy northeast of Baghdad.** The Spanish foreign affairs secretary, Ramón Gil-Casares, said that Iraqi authorities, both now and during the time of Saddam Hussein's government, knew that Bernal belonged to Spain's intelligence body and that he was gathering information. **The suicide bombing attack and the death on the Spanish officer renewed fears here about the vulnerability of so-called soft targets,** which have become the easier targets to hit now that the United States-led coalition forces and the civilians working for them have considerably tightened their security. **It was also the latest attack against Iraqis holding official positions in Iraq.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/09/international/middleeast/09CND-IRAQ.html?hp>

21. *October 09, York New Times* — Science panel urges review of research that terrorists could use. A panel of the National Academy of Sciences recommended Wednesday, October 8, prior

review, at the university and federal levels, of experiments that could help terrorists or hostile nations make biological weapons. **The panel's work was initiated by the academy, the leading scientific body in the nation, and represents an attempt by biologists to put their own review systems in place before others might do so for them.** Though physicists have long lived with the fact that certain areas of research are classified and cannot be discussed openly, biologists are relatively new to security concerns. **Apart from biological defense research, done mostly at military institutions, academic biology is focused on medicine and conducted without security restraints.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/09/science/09RESE.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1065724838-gJ+nuJawplPDa6WYqLze1g>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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